THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Government have formulated various schemes/ programmes for the development of Sanskrit language. These schemes/ programmes are being implemented through Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, Maharishi Sandipani Rashtriya Veda Vidya Pratishthan, Ujjain, two Deemed Universities and the State Governments.

(b) to (d) The Centre for Indian Languages and the Centre for Linguistics and English of the School of Languages, Jawaharlal Nehru University have shown adequate interest in Sanskrit being included as one of the languages for studies in the Centres and creation of two faculty positions for teaching Sanskrit in each of these Centres has already been included in the 9th Plan proposals.

Revamping of Blackboard Scheme

1934. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the revamped Blackboard Scheme atleast fifty per cent of the teachers recruited should be women throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the provision is being implemented in its entirely in all the States and Union Territories, particularly in Maharashtra; and

(d) if not, what action Government propose to take to ensure that provision is implemented in toto by the States and UTs.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) Under the Expanded Operation Blackboard all States have been advised to appoint atleast 50% women teachers.

(c) According to available information, 41.6% of teachers appointed in the country under Operation Blackboard are women. In Maharashtra this proportion is 36%

(d) The implementation of the scheme in different States is being monitored regularly by the Department.

Orientation Programme for Girls

1935. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to organise Orientation Programmes for girls in every professional course to suitably motivate and guide them about the schemes and opportunities available to them; and

(b) the other steps proposed to encourage and facilitate greater involvement of women at all levels?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) There are training and placement Cells in almost all the technical institutions to guide students on opportunities available to them and help them in placement.

(b) The Constitution of India not only grants equality to women but also empowers the States to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women. Government has enacted legislations to protect women against social discrimination, violence and atrocities, to prevent social evils and for greater representation of women in local bodies. It has been creating an enabling

policy environment in which women's concern for greater involvement in all fields and at all levels is reflected and addressed. Government also implements a number of women-specific and women related schemes for the health, education and economic empowerment of women.

Rising Cost of text books and exercise books

1936. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the rising cost of text books and exercise books is one of the deterrents to children belonging to poor families to join schools to get education in the country; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take to reduce the prices of books and text books so as to bring them within the reach of common man in the country so as to enable them to send their children to school?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) The NCERT continues to provide low priced textbooks as the sale price of its textbooks are determined as per the approved pricing formula based on no profit. The prices of textbooks for classes I to XII are Rs. 20/- or less and the prices of textbooks for Classes IX to XII continue to be competitive when compared with these textbooks brought out and marketed by private publishing houses. The NCERT thus has provided a benchmark of textbooks at affordable levels.

Besides this, some of the State Government are providing free/ subsidised textbooks to students upto certain level of education or for certain categories, e.g. SC, ST, girls, etc. State-wise details regarding provision of Free/ Subsidised Textbooks as available in this Department is annexed as Statement.

Statement

State-wise Details Regarding Provision of Free Text Books

Sl. No.	States Providing Primary Classes (I-V)	Free Textbooks Upper Primary Classes (I-VIII)	Remarks
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	All students
2.	—	Arunachal Pradesh	All students
3.	—	Assam	All students
4.	Bihar	—	50% subsidy (all students)
5.	—	Goa	70% subsidy to EBC
6.	—	Gujarat	SC/ST/OBC/EBC
7.	—	Haryana	SC/BC/OBC
8.	—	Himachal Pradesh	SC/ST/OBC
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	Depending on economic status of parents
10.	Karnataka	—	All students (I-IV) & SC/ST (I-VIII)
11.	Kerala	—	For Class I only
12.	Madhya Pradesh	—	SC/ST (III-V)